



Newsletter

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After the Party

The likely implications and impact of an Obama Presidency

Welcome to the latest issue of the Navig8or newsletter. This issue is going to look at what the Obama Presidency is likely to mean for the USA and the world.

Sadly for some of you, the words, Hope, Change and Inspiration will be in short supply in this newsletter. Instead I have chosen the unfashionable path of focusing on the policy positions espoused by Barack Obama and his closest advisors, which are all one can use to judge a prospective or new, as opposed to well established President.

Well the votes have been cast and counted and in some cases double counted or not counted at all. The tears have been shed and the celebratory alcohol consumed and Barack Obama has been duly elected as President of the United States. The mainstream media has duly dubbed this a landmark, historic election which marks a crucial turning point in US history. Well, they would wouldn't they, however what is the evidence that, skin pigmentation aside, Obama represents anything significantly new. Even if you are overjoyed at Obama's election victory I would ask you to think about what I have to say and see if any of it makes sense.

Can we talk Policies?

Let's look at what Barack Obama has actually said he will do and the things he has said he won't do. You can judge for yourself the extent to which you agree or disagree with his policy positions.

1. Despite all the hype Obama has moved rapidly from his former (2004) clear cut position on the Iraq invasion. **He now opposes the withdrawal of US troops in Iraq in favour of what is euphemistically called "redeployment";** the relocation of US troops from combat zones to training and logistical positions, contingent on the military capability of the Iraqi Army to defeat the resistance. Obama opposes a clearly defined deadline to withdraw US forces from Iraq because US troops in Iraq are essential to pursuing his overall policies in the Middle East, which include military confrontations with Iran, Syria and Southern Lebanon." (Petras 30 October 2008 www.countercurrents.org)

2. What you will gain in Iraqi military de-escalation on the one hand you will lose with **large scale Afghan military escalation** on the other. Obama is mad keen on pursuing this 19th century style colonial war. He pledges to pour in more US troops into a country that has broken the resolve of numerous imperial powers.

3. In pursuing the Afghan war Obama **promises to carry out military attacks in Pakistan** without the permission of the government of that country. Do you remember all that old fashioned nonsense about respecting the borders and sovereignty of other nations? Wasn't that the pretext for the first US war on Iraq after the invasion of Kuwait?

4. I have written previously about Obama and his **unconditional support for the Zionist Lobby**. Like all US Presidents of the past 40 years if you show him a Zionist butt he gets down on his knees and kisses it. He has given Israel a military blank cheque, offering support whatever they do and to whomever they do it. His speech at the annual AIPAC conference in Washington 2008 the day after defeating Hilary Clinton was cringe worthy for anyone who knows the history of Israeli colonialism and militarism and who possesses an ounce of integrity. He supports the continued expansion of Jewish settlements and the expulsion of Palestinians in what is no more or less than ethnic cleansing. Look at his pro-Zionist advisers and you know the score.

5. **Obama has promised to attack Iran if it continues to process uranium for its nuclear programmes** despite the fact that this is not in breach of the nuclear non-proliferation treaty (which is a farce anyway and which the US supported Israel in breaching). Obama's running mate Joseph Biden stated in a closed door speech in Seattle just weeks before the election that within the first six months of an Obama presidency an international crisis will be "generated" in order to give the new President an opportunity to prove himself. This crisis is likely to be manufactured in one of the various 'points of conflict' (including Iran, Afghanistan, Pakistan, Russia and North Korea) that Biden identified. "Obama's senior Middle East advisers include leading Zionists like Dennis Ross, closely linked to the 'Bipartisan Policy Center', which published a report serving as a blueprint for war with Iran. Obama's proposed offer to negotiate with Iran is little more than a pretext for issuing an ultimatum to Iran to surrender its sovereignty or face massive military assault." (Petras 30 October 2008 www.countercurrents.org)

6. Obama has identified at least 100 countries as sources of terrorism. With the US having military bases in over 130 countries around the world anyone who thinks an Obama Presidency will yield a significant decrease in US militarism is deluding himself. As part of his support for 'the war on terror' **he supported the FISA bill that allows unrestricted wire tapping and eavesdropping on US citizens.**

7. Obama has **offered precious little in support of Afrika**. He has not, to my knowledge, denounced the US proxy imperial war being waged by Ethiopia and the puppet regime in Somalia; on behalf of the US and against the Somalian people and in particular the Islamic Courts movement which had brought stability and order to that beleaguered country for the first time since 1994. The UN has declared Somalia as the world's worst humanitarian crisis – even worse than Darfur. I have heard nothing from him on the crisis in Congo, nothing about eliminating the debt that is crippling so many Afrikan economies, and the usual one eyed rhetoric on Zimbabwe.

8. Obama **has surrounded himself with some highly dubious advisors**. There is Rahm Emanuel who Obama has appointed as his Chief of Staff. The Illinois congressman is an Israel first Zionist and fittingly his middle name is Israel. There is James Rubin who was part of the Clinton administration and was a pro-Wall Street advocate who helped fashion the deregulation of financial markets in 1999 (continued with even greater vigour by the Bush regime) that led to the current economic depression. There is Zbigniew Brzezinski an old

fashioned cold war warrior (from the Carter administration) if there ever was one. He claims suckering the Soviet Union into its invasion of Afghanistan as his greatest achievement! There is Madeline Albright, who claimed that the million plus Iraqi deaths resulting from the US war was “a price worth paying”. His choice of the gaffe prone Joe Biden as his running mate was instructive. Biden is a rabid Israel First Democrat. He has been quoted as saying “I am a Zionist; you don’t have to be a Jew to be a Zionist.” Then there is Colin Powell that supposed ‘dove’. “The liar who lied to the members of the United Nations and led us into this fiasco in Iraq and now Obama may appoint him to be the ambassador to the UN. Perhaps he can get his old job back as Secretary Of State.” (David Truskoff 22 October 2008 www.Countercurrents.org) As they say ‘birds of a feather flock together’ and if you lie down with dogs you get fleas. Barack Obama has been mixing with some real dutty darg so don’t be surprised if he starts scratching. The futile hope that Obama is somehow different to and is not in general agreement with his closest advisors is naive in the extreme.

9. Obama supported **the \$850 billion bailout of the Wall Street kleptocrats**, an initiative that anyone who did even cursory research could see did not address the real roots of the financial crisis and which rewarded the rich culprits and did little for the much poorer victims. He is happy for massive amounts of taxpayers’ money to be pumped into private financial institutions and precious little into the hands of homeowners facing foreclosure in a deal that is much worse for the US taxpayer in terms of potential returns than the similarly unsatisfactory rescue package put in place by the UK government.

10. Obama **supports the continuation of the highly inefficient and incredibly expensive private health insurance based health care system** operated in the US. This system gives the US some of the worst health outcomes in the rich world at one of the highest per capita costs. The only people who really benefit from it are the huge corporate insurance companies, conservative medical and hospital associations and pharmaceutical conglomerates. So much for change.

11. In every direction one looks **Obama is a friend of corporate America**. He was actually the candidate with the biggest backing from the corporate sector despite all the ‘little people’ spin and was the favoured candidate amongst Washington lobbyists.

12. James Petras tells us that “Obama is and continues to be **an advocate for Big Agro** and its highly subsidized and profitable ethanol program, which has increased food prices for millions in the US and for hundreds of millions in the world.” (Petras 30 October 2008 www.countercurrents.org)

13. True to form **Obama is against any government, democratic or not, that does not offer unfettered access for economic rape and pillage to US corporations**. Whether it be the thrice elected Hugo Chavez of Venezuela, who Bush (the even Littler) tried to have assassinated, or the Castros of Cuba (there are numerous documented US attempts to assassinate Fidel Castro) it is not how the leader is elected or selected that matters, but rather the nature of their political views. In other words you are entitled to your view as long as you agree with me. Obama fits the mould of all his predecessors. With regard to the situation in ‘Latin’ America Glen Ford of Black Agenda report notes: “Long retarded by the fiction that Latin America has no racial problem, people of color are finally confronting the racial dimensions of Latin American poverty (disproportionately non-white) and oligarchy (always white).”

As usual, the U.S. is on the white oligarchy's side. So is Barack Obama, whose support for the oligarchic, super-corrupt Colombian regime amounts to backing a barbaric, color-coded caste system. One need not be fluent in Spanish to understand the meaning of political cartoons in the newspapers of the rich that portray Hugo Chavez as a monkey.” (Ford: 2008)

14. Obama has said nothing about the need to dismantle **the prison industrial complex** which currently houses well over 1.1 million Afrikan men and women (about 96% male) and over 2.5 million prisoners in total. Just as that other ‘Black President’ Bill Clinton presided over the biggest increase in the US prison population in history, whilst crime was falling in nearly all major categories and Negro leadership fawned over his syrupy overtures, so Obama promises nothing in return for Black support. Many of those people crying tears of joy over his election will shed tears of pain as their sons and daughters are incarcerated in the new hi-tech plantations of the USA; over the next four years.

15. Similarly, Obama has no plans to dismantle **the US military industrial complex** which has now become a centrepiece of the US economy. Far from it, he plans to increase the size of the huge US army by another 90,000. More poor cannon fodder to kill and be killed on foreign fields. As usual Afrikans in the US will be offered more than an equal opportunity to die for the stars and stripes.

16. **If you are socially ‘liberal’ Obama is your man.** He is pro unfettered access to abortion and received awards from Planned Parenthood; the organisation founded by the White Supremacist Margaret Sanger, whose clear intent and desire was to reduce the Afrikan population in the US (check for yourself). Planned Parenthood was recently exposed for welcoming a donation from an investigative reporter posing as a racist potential donor who wished to have their money specifically used to abort Black babies. Around 36% of all US abortions are carried out on Afrikan women who comprise 13% of the US female population. You will find an abortion clinic in every Black community. To date about 18 million Black babies have been aborted since the Roe vs Wade act legalised abortion in the 1960s and in some US cities the Black abortion rate is 50% i.e. half of all Afrikan conceptions end in abortion. When you add in a 13% miscarriage rate you can see why the Afrikan-American population has stagnated (see Missing Assets book or CDs by Keidi Obi Awadu). Obama supports homosexual civil unions but don’t ask him about **reparations for Afrikans, he is dead set against that.**

17. Throughout his career Obama has made it clear that **he will ditch anyone or any policy that stands in the way of his political advancement.** Only a fool believes that he was shocked by the sermons of Reverend Jeremiah Wright. He had attended Rev Wright’s church for years and had his children baptised by the Reverend. The minister did not suddenly get all radical in the lead up to the election. Similarly, as mentioned earlier Obama dropped his original correct position on the Iraq war, dropped his opposition to the wiretapping bill and has generally failed to hold firm on anything that he feels could cost him votes or that would upset Wall Street and corporate America.

He has thoroughly rejected the idea of a ‘Black America’ and when asked about persistent existing racial discrimination against Afrikans in the US quickly moves the goalposts to talk about some form of generalised inequality. On the other hand he is happy to respond to the specific concerns of virtually all other constituencies such as Jews,

Hispanics, homosexuals, 'the middle class', 'blue collar workers' (a euphemism for the white working class'), White feminists, abortionists, Washington corporate lobbyists etc. Etc. It seems that whilst everyone else can sit around the table we have to stay cooking in the kitchen unless we are happy to represent the views of one of these other interest groups. Obama has stated categorically that there is no Black America, only America and has made it clear that despite Afrikans in the US offering him the highest degree of loyalty and support (around 94% share of the Black vote) of any political constituency he offers nothing in return except the symbolism of his skin colour and paternal lineage.

Glen Ford, executive editor of Black Agenda report, who has know Obama since his early days in Chicago politics, when he considered him a friend, has been warning Afrikans of the illusory change offered by Obama and in an article entitled 'Barack Obama versus Black Self-Determination' states plainly:

"Obama-ism - a thoroughly corporate political concoction soaked with banalities and wrapped in fraudulent brown packaging - presents a clear and present danger to perhaps the greatest legacy of the Black Freedom Movement: African Americans' embrace of their right to self-determination. Although African American yearnings for self-determination are evident in all previous eras, the general and dramatic emergence of this fundamental understanding among Blacks of their distinct "peoplehood" and inherent right to shape their own collective destiny, free of veto by or need for validation from dominant whites, marks the Sixties as a transformational period in African American history....."

Obama has revealed himself as a rabid nationalist of the standard, white America variety. "I categorically denounce any statement that disparages our great country," says Obama - which pretty much says it all. The candidate has repeatedly telegraphed his contempt for any worldview that fails to glorify the U.S. rise to global dominance - a ritual that collides instantly with truth as it actually exists, with history as Black people have known it, and with Black aspirations to make their own way in the world unencumbered by the burden of white lies..... Clearly, if the United States is inherently good, then Black people and Native Americans must have done something catastrophically wrong to bring down upon themselves such suffering at the hands of the U.S. government - not to mention the sins committed by Vietnamese, Nicaraguans, Angolans and all the other peoples that have gotten in the way of white American Manifest Destiny." (Glen Ford, Black Agenda Report 28 May 2008)

Obama's Blackness is a privatised, de-politicised Blackness which finds its most public manifestation in trivialities such as the 'fist bump' with his wife. In terms of the crucial life and death issues for Afrikans at home and abroad I can find precious little of substance to justify all of the elation at his election.

So that is a flavour of the real Obama. The politician and not the dream. Here is a policy scoring guide to assist you in analysing to what degree you agree with his positions on the foregoing seventeen areas of policy/ideology:

0-4 If you scored in this range and profess support for him then your support is based on pure emotionalism and self-deception. I would suggest treatment from an Afrikan-centred psychologist/psychotherapist/counsellor and reducing your sugar intake.

5-8 You have some alignment with him but not really enough to feel comfortable voting for him

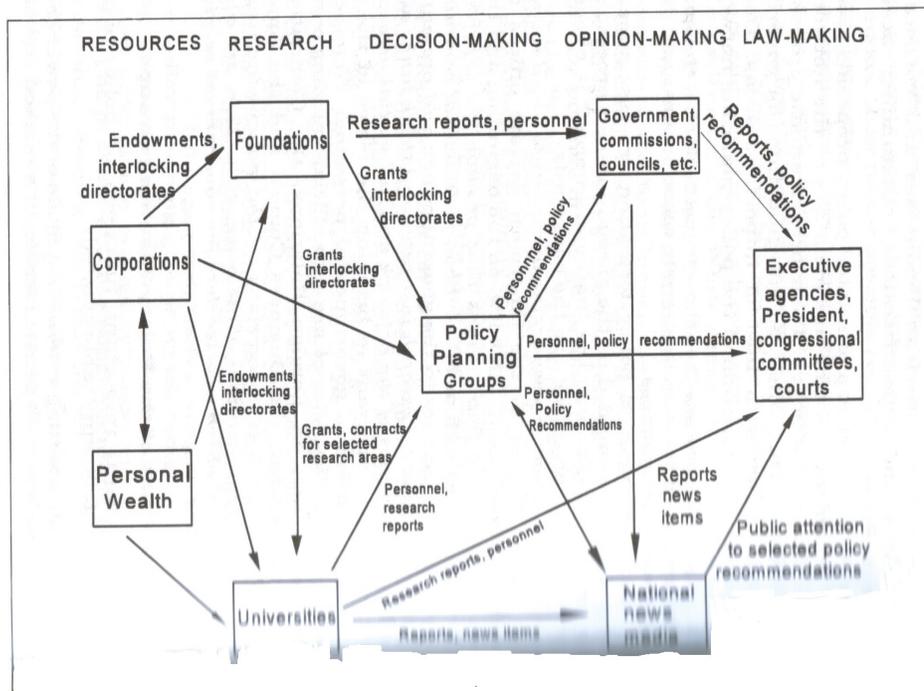
9-12 You can make a solid case for supporting Obama. You are socially 'liberal', support welfare for big business and warmongering in support of corporations and Zionists.

13-17 It's a done deal. He da man.

In policy terms Obama is little more than Bill Clinton with a shiny paint job, just as Hilary Clinton is little more than Bill Clinton with ovaries and a uterus. The fascinating part of the whole Obama/Clinton primary battle was how quickly many Afrikans who had always loyally trooped off to the polls to support Bill Clinton and vociferously extolled his virtues, discovered that he was little more than an old fashioned Southern Cracker - albeit an intelligent Cracker – who expected the 'boy' Obama to know his place in the pecking order, which was behind Hilary. Similarly it was interesting to note how many Afrikans were supporting Hillary Clinton in seeking the Democratic nomination until Obama received the endorsement of Whites in Iowa (95% White population).

To finish off this section let's look at how policy, be it economic, social or political policy is really formed in the United States. A similar process is present in many other countries.

The Policy-Formation Process



The above diagram is taken from chapter nine (page 170) of Amos Wilson's classic work *Blueprint for Black Power*. I would thoroughly recommend that anyone seriously interested in understanding how political policies are really developed in the US reads this chapter. My apologies for the quality of the scan which is due to the layout of the diagram in the book. Next to the box marked 'Universities' at the bottom of the diagram it says 'Reports, news

items' and the next box to the right says 'National news media'. The diagram clearly depicts the linkages between Resources, Research, Decision-Making, Opinion Making and Law-Making and clearly refutes the notion that it is politicians who are solely in charge and that their policies are a result of listening to and interpreting the needs of the general public. The public is presented with a carefully selected menu of policy options from which to choose just as they are presented with a carefully selected menu of politicians to vote into high office.

One of the most recurrent backstop arguments used by supporters of Obama is the 'lesser of two evils' argument. I received an email from a brother who like me is a lonely voice amidst the clamour for Obama and who touched on this subject. He says:

"Honestly, almost ANYONE would be an improvement over that past 8 years. But we must remember that the National Security establishment has a long history of covert operations around the world, which have disaffected the economy, education, employment, healthcare, etc. for years, regardless of who's in office (as noted by Jeremy Scahill, John Perkins, John Prados, Naomi Klein, etc). By now, most in the Afrikan-Centered community know that the POTUS is a mere figurehead for the corporation known as "The United States of America," which has always been run by elite families and corporations.
.....In a way, cheney/bush should be commended. Malcolm put it this way: "I have more respect for a man who lets me know where he stands -- even if he's wrong -- than the one who comes (off) like an angel, and is nothing but a devil! As I mention Malcolm, I am reminded of what he said about "progress." "...I will never say that progress is being made. If you stick a knife in my back nine inches and pull it out six inches, there's no progress; *you pull it all the way out*, there's no progress. The progress is healing the wound that the blow made; and they haven't even begun to pull the knife out, much less try (to) heal the wound... they won't even admit the knife is there!" (Italics Ka`Ba)

Unfortunately, most of our folks won't admit it either! Most of them don't want to deal with what true healing would entail: Pan-Afrikanism, rejection of foreign ideologies, redress, reparations, etc. They say, "I'm an american! I'm no Afrikan! I was born in d.c.," etc. As for the knife, they say, "oh, I'm okay... everything's alright, that's not a knife! It's a needle! I made a mistake and fell on it! IT'S MY FAULT!" As for Obama's election, they say, "this isn't just for African-americans, it's for EVERYBODY!" As Wilson pointed out ad nauseum, that kind of sentiment makes many of us "feel good." For many of our people, saying that "it's not that he's black, he's a capable american, who *happens* to be black," makes them feel righteous and patriotic! Of course that's not how they really feel. Otherwise, there wouldn't have been the record turnout and unyielding support for Obama in the black community in '08. Rather, it was another unsolicited act of capitulation to the collective white ego. We didn't want to upset them; instead most of us just "cut out (our) own back door" as Woodson posited. It's about assimilation for most blacks, and Obama represents someone who some whites deem acceptable, so that makes him acceptable to them (e.g., blacks didn't start to jump onboard the Obama train until after he won in Iowa, a state that is 95% white). Many of those same people are for Obama because "he's for all americans," they say. But their support is mostly about him being a black person who "proves" to whites that we're "alright." The fact that many of those same blacks won't even step foot in a black-owned business without it having to be damn-near perfect (I know because I worked in one, and can tell you some sad, sad, self-hate stories from some of our people) is evidence

enough. If the black person is a CEO *for* American Express, it's a great achievement for Black people! But if s/he owns her/his *own* courier/delivery service, then s/he will be fortunate if she's acknowledged at all by most in the Black community. Returning to Wilson, the Great Ancestor also brought attention to the fact that Africans have already led euro nations before, and that all it signified was that the euro was even MORE powerful than before!" (Brother Ka`Ba email 06 November 2008)

The timescale for reality dawning

How will things pan out? There follows my prediction for how the eye squint inducing harsh light of reality will gradually wake Obamaites out of their hypnotic trance.

0-1 months. Hysteria and jubilation abound. We have arrived...at last!

2-4 months. The warm glow still keeps some people smiling as their friends' and relatives' homes are foreclosed and jobs are lost.

5-6 months. The foreign crisis that Joe Biden spoke of is "generated" to prove to the world that Obama can be as tough as Republican Presidents and is no liberal softie.

7-12 months. People realise that the US is in the deepest recession since the 1930s and the tinkering at the edges offered by an Obama Presidency offers little respite for those on middle and low incomes. House prices continue to plummet. The US piles troops into Afghanistan and finds it easier to take territory than secure it. The 'war on terror' continues unabated.

13 months to 24 months. Reality bites. The honeymoon is well and truly over and the economy is in a mess, billions a week are being spent on overseas wars and too many Afrikan men and women continue to move seamlessly into prison at a rapid pace. Afrikan people start to question whether the 'success' of one man means anything for the tens of millions who don't live in the White House, however the vast majority remain loyal. Some non-Afrikans start acting as if Obama created the economic crisis.

25-48 months. It's business as usual except that it's not business as usual. The US economy will have been in the toilet for most of Obama's presidency. The recession is far deeper and longer than predicted in 2008 and his hopes of re-election rest upon being able to engineer an upturn at least six months (the length of most voters' economic memory) prior to the 2012 election.

By the end of Obama's first term Hispanics will have well and truly replaced Afrikans as the second largest 'ethnic' (Hispanics are not really an ethnic group) group in the US and many Black Nationalists who should have known better will be rueing their failure to have kept their eyes on the prize of 'Black Power' and Nationbuilding; as the pseudo-integrationist chickens come home to roost. Meanwhile Caucasians will have well and truly buried racism and congratulated themselves on their historic achievement of creating a 'post-racial society', proving once again why America is the 'Greatest Nation on Earth', which will be the epitaph on the grave of Black America.

Conclusion

Please don't label me a playa hater or party pooper. Don't froth at the mouth and dismiss views you don't agree with. Stop and think. Balance all that emotional, racial pride with some cold sober reflection on the issues. Politicians have the power of life and death, particularly the President of the United States. It is a diminishment, not an acknowledgement, of the sacrifices of our ancestors to rally behind a politician, or any individual, who has so clearly rejected Black America and who is the creation of the oligarchy that rules the US, just because one of his parents is an Afrikan.

Whilst everyone needs hope and inspiration there is also a pressing need for substance. Obama represents superficial, literally skin deep, change. The euphoria surrounding his candidacy and election amongst Afrikans in the US – and across the globe – is symptomatic of our oppressed and conquered status and the deeply held, if often unspoken, desire for acceptance by Caucasians who have dominated and oppressed Afrikans for hundreds of years. It's the Stockholm syndrome, where the kidnapped come to psychologically empathise with their kidnappers and seek to rationalise their abduction and captivity.

Obama's appeal to Caucasians is largely rooted in his personal charisma and inexperience and hence lack of tainted political record – although he has some Chicago skeletons rattling in his political closet. His bi-racial heritage makes him the symbolic representation of the 'melting pot', 'can't we all just get along', 'forget the past' approach to race favoured by Caucasian liberals. His lack of roots in the Afrikan-American community is also reassuring to whites who have come to realise that he is happy to distance himself politically from Black people in the US.

Cutting across all constituencies that supported Obama (and McCain) is the incredible level of political ignorance amongst the US populace. Most people simply did not know and could not be bothered to find out what the candidates actually stood, hence why there were so many ludicrous accusations, such as Obama is a Muslim, socialist, terrorist, picked up and regurgitated by the candidates' respective supporters and why these same people could muster little more than clichéd slogans, such as 'I want change' to explain their support for their candidate.

'Hope', 'Change' and 'Yes we can' do not represent a political philosophy. Barack Obama is a true believer in the 'American dream' whilst I am not; therefore it is natural that I should be highly sceptical of what he represents. Not all Afrikan people believe in the same things or want the same things and it is naive to think that we all do; or that we can or will all unite. It is each person's job to fight for the things they believe in, hence why I had to write this article despite the fact that most Afrikans in the US and around the world will disagree with me.

One positive that may come out of this process is that it presents an opportunity to engage our people in a debate on critical questions such as exactly what it is we are 'struggling' for and if we can agree on that, how we are going to achieve it.

The citizens of the US voted in record numbers, however as usual they were Had, Hoodwinked, Fooled and Deceived by the ruling elite. They 'chose' between a maverick who is no such thing and an outsider who is really an insider. The Democrats and Republicans are two sides of the same coin which is why national politics offers only the 'illusion of

inclusion' for Afrikans and the poor in the US and why virtually all the key social outcomes for Afrikans in the US show no sign of improving and in fact in many areas are getting progressively worse.

I know there are a minority of people out there who feel very similar to me but who are keeping their heads down for fear of the backlash they will get, however I would encourage those people to speak out now and play their part in shaping the future direction of our people.

The proof of the pudding is in the eating, so we will see if Obama is the 'Undercover Brotha' or the 'Manchurian Candidate'. Whatever happens the need for Afrikans to organise has never been more pressing, so as Marcus Garvey warned us, 'Organise or Perish'.

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